



VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Amend claims 45 to 57 as follows:

45. (Amended) A composition for enhancing [the] antigenicity of a formaldehyde fixed, paraffin-embedded, tissue, the composition comprising:

A buffered solution of about .01 moles of trisodium citrate dihydrate, and about 1000 milliliters of water; about 18.5 milliliters of a mixture by weight about 5.8% ethylene glycol monobutyl ether, about 3.75% nonylphenol ethoxylate, about 1.5% tetrapotassium pyrophosphate and about 88.95% water; and

[the pH of] the solution having a pH being between about [1.0] 5.96 and about [11.0] 6.04.

46. (Amended) An aqueous composition having a pH between about [1] 5.96 and about [11] 6.04 for enhancing [the] antigenicity of a formaldehyde-fixed, paraffin-embedded, slide-mounted tissue, the composition comprising:

up to about 25% by volume of a mixture by weight about 5.8% ethylene glycol monobutyl ether, about 3.75% nonylphenol ethoxylate, about 1.5% tetrapotassium pyrophosphate and about 88.95% water.; and

up to 10% by weight of citric acid and alkaline citrate salts.

47. (Amended) A method for using the composition of Claim [145 or 146] 45 or 46, including the steps of:

contacting formalin-fixed, paraffin-embedded [the] tissue with the composition and heating to a temperature of at least 80°C for a time sufficient so that the tissue becomes substantially hydrated;

removing the tissue [slide] from the composition; and

washing the [slide] tissue to remove residual composition.

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48. (Amended) A method for enhancing immunochemical staining of a paraffin-embedded, formalin-fixed tissue with a single solution the method comprising;

immersing said tissue for a period of at least about 10 min and a temperature of at least 80°C in an up to about 10 weight percent aqueous surfactant paraffin- removing agent solution having a pH from about [1] 2 to about [11] 8, said solution also containing at least one of a buffer, or salt [or chelator]-tissue activating agent.

49. (Amended) The method of claim [146 or 1] 48 where the solution has a pH of from 5 to 8.

50. (Amended) The method of claim [146 or 1] 48 where the surfactant is an aromatic hydrocarbon sulfonate salt.

51. (Amended) The method of claim [146 or 1] 48 where the surfactant is at least one of cationic, anionic amphoteric and nonionic.

52. (Amended) The method of claim [1]48 where tissue activating agent is a metal salt.

53. (Amended) The method of claim [1]48 where the tissue activating agent is at least one of aluminum chloride, sodium chloride, sodium fluoride, iron chloride, zinc sulfate, and lead thiocyanate.

54. (Amended) The method of claim [1]48 where the tissue activating agent is a buffering agent.

55. (Amended) The method of claim [1]48 where the tissue activating agent is at least one of a citrate salt, tartrate salt, phthalate salt, borate salt, Tris-HCl, EDTA and phosphate salt.

56. (Amended) The method of claim [1]48 where the tissue activating agent is EDTA.

57. (Amended) The method of claim [1]48 where the tissue activating agent is a buffer.

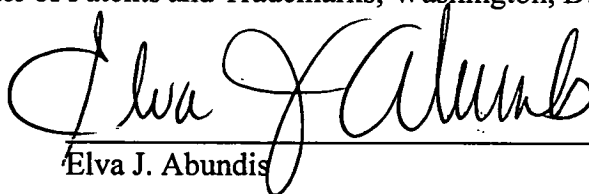


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